

A NEW PIT VIPER OF THE GENUS *ANCISTRODON*.

BY

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ANCISTRODON MILLARDI.

Under the title *Ancistrodon hypnale* Professor Boulenger* appears to me to have mixed up two very definite forms each of which I consider is entitled to rank as a distinct species.

I am very familiar with a form which is common in the Hills of Ceylon, having examined no less than 41 specimens from Hakgalla (5,600 feet).

This form is characterised by a very pronounced appendage on the snout which is covered with minute scales (8-12). It has the supraoculars relatively small, these being about three-fourths to four-fifths the length of the parietals, and as broad as the frontal along a line connecting the centres of the eyes. Again the ventrals are fewer (116 to 131) and so are the subcaudals (24 to 37) than in the other form.

Now I have lately received through Mr. Millard a specimen from Castle Rock which attracted my attention in possessing a slight boss, not an appendage on the snout, covered with scales similar in size to those elsewhere on the snout (4 to 6). Further the supraoculars are unusually developed being as long as or longer than the parietals, and broader by one-third than the frontal, along a line connecting the centres of the eyes. The ventrals and subcaudals are in excess of the common Ceylon Hill form *viz.*, 151 + 36 (tail imperfect). Since this Mr. Millard has submitted to me 4 more examples from Carwar agreeing in every way with the Castle Rock specimen. A study of the British Museum specimens as given in Professor Boulenger's Catalogue (I have not examined them) supports the view that under *hypnale* he is dealing with two distinct forms for there appear to be two distinct ranges of ventrals and subcaudals, and in his description he says "snout more or less turned up." I append his figures, and mine in tabular form for easy reference.

* Catalogue Vol. III, p. 528.

Number of specimens referred to.	Ventrals.	Subcaudals.	Authority.	Habitat.
41	116 to 131 ...	24 to 37 ...	Wall ...	Ceylon (Hakgalla).
2	125 to 128 ...	28 ...	Boulenger...	Ceylon.
Total ... 43				
6	141 to 152 ...	30 to 43 ...	Boulenger...	Ceylon.
7	136 to 141 ...	35 to 44 ...	Boulenger...	India (Belgaum and Anamallays).
5	141 to 151 ...	36 to 44 ...	Wall ...	India (Castle Rock and Carwar near Western Ghats).
Total ... 18				

From this it will be seen that 43 examples from Ceylon have a range of ventrals from 116 to 131, and subcaudals 24 to 37. In 18 others from Ceylon and India (Western Ghats) the range of ventrals is 136 to 152, and subcaudals 30 to 44.

The former species which I take to be "forma typica" has the pronounced nasal appendage, and fewer ventrals, and subcaudals. The latter form appears to me equally deserving of a specific title, and I propose to call it *millardi* in recognition of the great impetus given to Natural History researches in India by Mr. W. S. Millard by years of indefatigable labour in the interests of our Society.

Description.—Snout with slightly developed prominence above, covered with from 4 to 6 scales subequal to those seen elsewhere on the snout. *Frontal.* Less than distance to end of snout, about two-thirds the breadth of the supraoculars on a line connecting the centres of the eyes. *Supraoculars.* As long as the parietals. *Nasal.* An entire shield in contact with the 1st but not the 2nd labial. *Loreal.* A single shield behind the nasal grooved to form the inner wall of the loreal pit, and quite distinct from the 2nd supralabial.* *Præoculars.* 3, the lower two diverging to border the loreal pit. *Postocular.* One. *Subocular.* Usually one long arc-shaped shield, sometimes subdivided. *Temporals.* One enlarged row. *Supralabials* 7, none touching the eye. *Infralabials* 3. *Sublinguals.* A single pair.

* In this it agrees with *hypnale* though Boulenger (Cat. Vol. III, p. 528) says that the 2nd supralabial enters the loreal pit in that species.